

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in the application. No claims have been amended, canceled or added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,961,590 (hereinafter “the ‘590 patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,018,762 (hereinafter “the ‘762 patent”). This ground for rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 will be used as an exemplary claim to explain the patentability of independent claims 1, 10, 13, and 22. Claim 1 recites “determining whether an e-mail message in the consolidated e-mail storage has been deleted from the external e-mail server . . . , and if a match is found, then deleting the corresponding e-mail message from the consolidated storage of the local e-mail server.” The Office Action cites Figure 12, col. 12, line 20 – col. 13, line 15, and col. 15, lines 25-67 as anticipating that limitation; however, those assertions are unfounded. The ‘590 patent allows for files to be downloaded to a local store, but once there, the ‘590 patent does not disclose that the system tracks when the corresponding message is deleted from the external e-mail server such that the local consolidated store should be updated to delete it locally as well. As such, the ‘590 patent does not teach “deleting the corresponding e-mail message from the consolidated storage of the local e-mail server” under the claimed condition of having determined “whether an e-mail message in the consolidated e-mail storage has been deleted from the external e-mail server.”

The Office Action has also not alleged that the ‘762 patent overcomes the deficiencies of the ‘590 patent. Therefore, the combination of the ‘762 patent and the ‘590 patent contains the same deficiency as each of the references individually. Thus, the combination of references does not render obvious the subject matter of claim 1. Since dependent claims 2-9 all depend from claim 1, those claims are also patentable over the cited references.

Claim 10 recites a similar mail deletion step, step (E), as was discussed above with reference to claim 1. Claim 10 is patentable for reasons analogous to the reasons given for the patentability of claim 1 above.

Claim 13 recites a system including a consolidated e-mail storage. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, the ‘590 patent does not inform the local consolidated storage of what e-mail messages have been deleted from the external e-mail server. Thus, the ‘590 patent does not disclose that the consolidated e-mail storage would include the two claimed

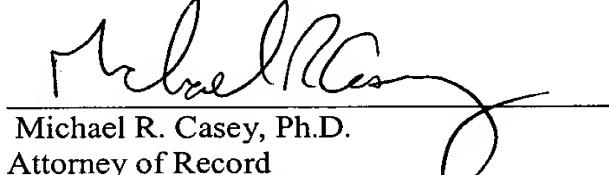
states which require communication from the external e-mail server. Accordingly, claim 13 and its dependent claims, claims 14-21, are patentable over the cited combination of references.

Claim 22 is similarly patentable for the reasons set forth for the patentability of claim 13 above. In addition, dependent claims 23 and 24 are patentable based on their dependence on claim 22.

Consequently, in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome and in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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